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Victor Venegas:
A Corktown Legend

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182 Steps to Create a Vibe: Detroit's Cultural Curators Face an Uphill Battle

By Michael D. Gutierrez

Detroit's underground art scene showed up in force this past Monday night at The Platform in Tech Town with a simple message: fix the broken system. Local artist and rapper Demacio worked quietly in the corner on a live painting while a diverse crowd, ranging from filmmakers to lawyers and small business owners, gathered to talk about what many consider Detroit's most valuable asset: Its culture.

The event, hosted by Visit Detroit's Global Underground Ambassador Michael Reyes – who introduced himself first as “Reyes Poetry” and made a point to mention that he was speaking not on behalf of his organization “We Are Culture Creators”, but as an individual – brought Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield face-to-face with a small but vocal group of the city's creative community. Sheffield, who is also running for mayor, arrived slightly under the weather but eager to engage on issues affecting Detroit's cultural curators.

“As Detroit is going through this kind of, I don't know, shift in city services and maybe regulation,” Reyes began, “what is your platform on arts and in particular kind of like the underground creative art scene, or maybe the night-time economy?”

For many in attendance, the answer to that question has significant economic

implications. Reyes, who produces “100 events a year” working with “probably 50 different groups,” represents just one node in Detroit's extensive network of “cultural curators”—a casual term coined to describe the underground event organizers, community builders, and vibe architects of Detroit who represent the frontlines of the city's creative economy.

“Our biggest export is culture for Detroit,” Reyes stated plainly. Operating similar to small businesses, culture curators face unique regulatory challenges. When Reyes and his team started a festival seven years ago, they were “underground, for sure.” He acknowledged they “didn't even understand that there was an events department,” but pointed out the red tape creators must cut through and why many events start underground: “Looking at the regulation that exists, had we started that completely legal, we wouldn't have been able to scale it.”

Sheffield didn't shy away from acknowledging the regulatory burden facing all Detroit entrepreneurs. “It's extremely difficult, whether you're talking about zoning, permitting, the city bureaucracy,” Sheffield admitted. “It's 182 steps just to start a restaurant, six departments, \$4,000 in fees—most people just stop and go to the suburbs.”

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Michael Reyes interviews Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield about Detroit's creative arts and culture scene at The Platform this past Monday. Photo by Freddy Torres @Hisoptics

Homenaje a los estudiantes adultos del All Saints Literacy Center

Once estudiantes adultos del Centro de Alfabetización All Saints, fueron incorporados a la Sociedad Nacional de Honor de Educación para Adultos (NAEHS) en el suroeste de Detroit, el sábado 17 de mayo. La NAEHS reconoce a los estudiantes adultos por sus logros y solo el cinco por ciento a nivel nacional recibe este reconocimiento anualmente. La ceremonia, llena de alegría y anticipación, destacó el impacto duradero del aprendizaje del inglés y el brillante futuro que les espera a nuestros estudiantes adultos.

Los estudiantes recibieron un prendedor y un certificado por sus cualidades, que demostraron el compromiso por su aprendizaje, como llegar temprano a clase, hacer preguntas, tener buena asistencia, hacer sus tareas, participar en clase y ayudar a sus compañeros. Los premios fueron entregados por el profesor de ESL y alfabetización digital del Centro frente a una sala compuesta por estudiantes,

sus tutores, sus familiares, invitados de la comunidad y compañeros.

La ceremonia contó con inspiradores discursos de las líderes comunitarias Paula Anderanin, Laura Chávez y Alma Cruz, quienes enfatizaron la importancia de la educación, la perseverancia y el desarrollo comunitario. “La educación es una parte fundamental de la vida de todos: la alfabetización no se trata solo de aprender un nuevo idioma, sino que también de una nueva cultura y de la posibilidad de explorar nuevos mundos y posibilidades”, dijo Anderanin, propietaria de Candela Detroit.

Como educadora, emprendedora y líder comunitaria, Laura Chávez habló sobre la importancia del aprendizaje del inglés para ampliar las oportunidades y fortalecer el mercado laboral para todos. Abogó por que: “La educación es algo que usarás para siempre y nadie te la puede quitar. Recuerda que tu historia es tu poder; tu voz es tu poder”.

Continúa en la pág.6

All Saints Literacy Center Honors Its Adult Learners

Eleven adult learners at All Saints Literacy Center were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society (NAEHS) in Southwest Detroit on Saturday, May 17. NAEHS recognizes adult learners for their achievements and only five percent nationwide are inducted annually. The ceremony, filled with joy and anticipation, underscored the lasting impact of English language learning and the bright futures that await our adult learners.

Learners received a lapel pin and certificate for attributes that demonstrated they were committed to their learning journey, including being early to class, asking questions, having good attendance, doing their homework, participating in class and helping fellow students. The awards were presented by the Center's ESL and digital literacy teacher in front of a room comprised of learners, their tutors, their family, community guests, and peers.

The ceremony featured inspiring speeches from



All Saints Induction Ceremony May 17th 2025

community leaders, Paula Anderanin, Laura Chavez, and Alma Cruz who each emphasized the importance of education, perseverance, and community building. “Education is a huge part of everyone's life—literacy is not just about learning the language because learning a new language is also about the culture and learning to navigate new worlds and possibilities,” said Anderanin, owner of Candela Detroit.

As an educator, entrepreneur, and community leader, Laura Chavez spoke about the importance of English language learning to expand opportunities and to strengthen the marketplace for us all. She advocated that, “Education is something you will use forever and no one can take it away from you. Always remember that your story is your power; your voice is your power”.

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182 Steps to Create a Vibe: Detroit’s Cultural Curators Face an Uphill Battle

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For event producers, these challenges are compounded by shifting regulations and inconsistent enforcement. Reyes described preparing for a Cinco de Mayo event only to have capacity limits suddenly changed at an event he recently held. “And because we don’t really know [the fire marshal’s rules and regulations], and it’s not in print, we’re kind of left in limbo the day before,” he explained. “And then it’s like, you know, what do we do? Who do we call? Who do we connect with?”

Despite these challenges, no one argued against the need for reasonable oversight. In fact, quite the opposite.

“I think every producer that is a part of our group wants our events to be safe,” Reyes emphasized. The issue, as he framed it, was about consistency and communication: “If we know the rules, we can engage and then we can figure it out.”

Sheffield agreed. “I think there needs to be more communication and coordination,” she said. “The way in which we do special events in Detroit, people need to know at the onset what is expected. How can we better work with events and local artists at putting on events that are safe, and then not creating so many barriers?”

She added firmly: “We don’t want to be a barrier and so burdensome that it’s so hard to do events in Detroit that it prevents local artists and others from actually setting up shop.”

Reyes highlighted disparities in how different events are regulated. “When we see something like the NFL Draft, they’re able to leverage... and you kind of see 750,000 people downtown that are able to just move freely.” In contrast, smaller cultural events face more scrutiny, he noted.

More pointed was his observation about racial disparities in event regulation: “Being somebody who is non-black that works within black spaces and feels privileged to do that, there is a different conversation when we’re bringing up a black-focused event or festival” – a statement Sheffield wholeheartedly agreed with. “We just want the playing field to be equal,” said Reyes.

“Just Shacoi,” who had provided music as the DJ earlier in the evening before joining the crowd as a concerned citizen, raised concerns about major festivals coming to Detroit without involving local talent. “It feels almost unfair and a spit in the face as not only a community of big organizers, but also a DJ, to see these big festivals come in and touch no local artists,” she said. “We have some of the best DJs in the world. I see the



techno Godfathers promoted all over Berlin way more than here.”

Throughout the evening, Sheffield offered several concrete solutions to address these challenges.

“First and foremost, we are going to create an Office of Small Business Affairs,” she promised, describing it as providing “the ecosystem that a lot of small businesses don’t have” to navigate city bureaucracy.

She also committed to continuing a dedicated role working with the nightlife economy, similar to the position previously held by Adrian Tonon, Mayor Mike

Duggan’s chosen “Nighttime Economy Ambassador.” (A quick search on Tonon’s LinkedIn boasts him as “the first ever Night Time Mayor for the City of Detroit.”)



Sheffield “would love to have someone in the Mayor’s office that’s directly working with the nightlife. Most definitely, that will be something that I will continue.” When asked about supporting existing creative spaces, she referenced a recent win for independent filmmakers: “In the budget for the first time, we put an urge that we create a grant program to give grants to our local, independent film artists.” But whether “an urge” is a line item in the budget remains unclear.

Sheffield did express openness to similar programs for other cultural curators, acknowledging, “I think we have a lot of work to do to ensure that that department is actually working on behalf of our artists here locally in Detroit.”

Chris Scott, Sheffield’s campaign manager, emphasized the importance of arts and culture to Detroit’s future. With a background in performing arts and film production himself, Scott described the arts scene as a “legacy industry” essential to neighborhood revitalization and economic diversification.

“We don’t get our neighborhoods back, we definitely don’t diversify our economy without y’all,” Scott told the gathered creatives.

Sheffield echoed this sentiment in her vision for the city. “My vision is to create a world class city,” she said. “In order to do so, I think we have to have a strong and vibrant and



thriving arts and culture scene.” She acknowledged that while her time on City Council has been “laser focused on issues like housing in Detroit, poverty and basic social services,” she expressed interest in “tapping into a little bit more to see how my office... can better be of assistance to you all.”

Detroit’s cultural curators face a basic problem: how to keep creating while dealing with city rules that make



Local artist and rapper Demacio works on a live painting while a diverse crowd talked about Detroit’s culture.



Michael D. Gutierrez is the Digital Content Manager for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. He is a screenwriter and filmmaker with a decade of experience in the television and film industry, contributing to projects including THE HOLDOVERS and LETHAL WEAPON on Fox. He is an active member of the Writers Guild of America-West and its Latino Writers Committee.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Pensamientos y Recuerdos

Vic Venegas: A Corktown Legend

During my childhood in Detroit's Corktown area in the 60's, the name of Victor "Vic" Venegas was legendary among area youth. It seemed like a day would not pass without his name being mentioned by my classmates at Most Holy Trinity and by other youth on neighborhood streets. Venegas, who recently turned 83, was a well-known and respected sports coach and youth program leader who would go on to become the director of Casa Maria the drop-in youth center located on the corner of Labrosse and Trumbull. A few blocks from the old Tigers baseball stadium on Michigan and Trumbull, Casa Maria during that time was considered one of the cornerstone institutions in our neighborhood. The center was closely associated, as was Vic Venegas, to the great social activist Father Clement Kern, pastor of Most Holy Trinity.

Victor was born in Detroit in 1942. His father Moses Venegas was born in 1923 in the Mexicantown community of Bagley and 22nd. The elder Venegas was close friends with Frank "Panchito" Lozano who would go on to fame as an educator, musician and band leader. At age 18, Moses Venegas bought a gas and service station on the corner of 5th and Vernor. That business was displaced, as were many homes and other businesses, when construction started for I-75, the Fisher Freeway in 1966.

Vic attended Most Holy Trinity from 1947 to 1956 before being sent by Father Kern to Assumption High School in Windsor, Canada from 1956-60. There he excelled in baseball and football. He played center field on the baseball team and halfback on the football team. He had a promising future in sports when he was hit by a line drive in his right eye. That unfortunate accident would change the course of his connection to sports. In 1961 he was asked by Father Kern to take over the baseball and football teams at Holy Trinity. Within a few years the baseball team would go on to win the Catholic Youth Organization League championship in 1963. In 1968 he was appointed director of Casa Maria and served in that capacity till 1978. It is no exaggeration to say that in neighborhood lore Vic was the reason there was such a vibrant sports culture within that community that interestingly enough stood in the shadows of Tiger Stadium.

During this same period Father Kern took Vic under his wing introducing him to a who's who of business, political and union leaders who were supporters of Father Kern's mission to serve the poor and disenfranchised communities. Vic recounts he would often tag

along with Father Kern when he spoke at union gatherings. This led to Vic developing life-long relationships with union leaders and a host of politicians.

Father Kern, upon noting Vic's leadership potential, appointed him as the President of Most Holy Trinity's Credit Union at the ripe age of 21. This was just the beginning. Vic became a prodigious fundraiser and advocate for Most Holy Trinity and Casa Maria's

understanding of the global dimensions of servant leadership was enhanced when in 1963 he was sent to the Dominican Republic to do missionary work. There he was struck by the widespread poverty as he went throughout the countryside and witnessed first-hand the living conditions people faced. He accompanied Most Holy Trinity's other pastor Fr. George Van Antwerp to Recife Brazil where again he noted the conditions faced



by Ozzie Rivera



Vic in a recent photo, holding a trophy that is inscribed: Most Holy Trinity Parish • Sharing of the Green • 2025 • Corktown Detroit

community and sports activities. So, it is no wonder Vic was a founding and still active board member of the Father Kern Foundation, which to this day continues to support social activism and the provision of basic human needs that was started by the Father at Most Holy Trinity.

Vic credits Fr. Kern with exposing him to a wide range of experiences that, as he often says, "took this neighborhood boy beyond Corktown and Detroit's boundaries". Vic's

by ordinary people in a Latin American country.

When I speak to Victor I am often mesmerized. He is a master story teller. As he recounts his journeys the names of notable athletes and other key sports personnel, as well as civic, political, business, media and union leaders roll off his tongue with ease. He counts among his friends and acquaintances individuals such as Chris Getz, Vice President of the Chicago White Sox, George Perles, Detroit Western High



Vic in front of former Casa Maria center at the corner of Labrosse and Trumbull. This picture was taken April 30th this year by the author.

school alum, famed football player and former Michigan State University coach, former TV news anchor and reporter Joe Weaver, as well as businessman Art Getz. The list is extensive and too many to mention in this short article.

Even at age 83, Vic Venegas seems to never run out of energy. He continues to fundraise and network so as to ensure programming continues at Holy Trinity as well as other organizations and sports ventures. For example, the famed St Patrick's Sharing of the Green, a historic and powerful fundraising mechanism was brought to unimaginable heights by Father Kern. The Sharing of the Green exists to this date. Vic joined their efforts in 1961. He regularly secures donations from Sacred Heart in Dearborn and St Regis in Birmingham. He maintains significant relationships with key players at the University of Detroit, Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills' Sacred Heart, Cristo Rey, Holy Redeemer, Focus Hope, Deo Gratius, and the Pope Francis Center. All

quickly accept his referrals thus "opening doors" for those who may not be able to enter otherwise.

His love for Most Holy Trinity shines bright decades after his first stint as a coach. He founded the Fr Kern basketball tournament which includes some suburban teams. He celebrates the fact suburban kids get an intercultural experience with their participation in this tournament. He beams with pride when recounting the fundraising effort that led to the creation of the gym at Holy Trinity. As the Athletic Director he is responsible for raising funds and managing its recreational programs. He is especially proud that youth in these programs are taught citizenship and academics and that in order for them to participate they have to keep grades up.

Upon being asked what is his philosophy of life, he stated he feels he is on a mission to continue Fr. Kern's legacy. His faith in God motivates him to give to others particularly those that might have less access to resources. He believes in the importance of discipline, the value of education and the need for us to become good citizens.

As we started to wind up our conversation he reflected that he is in relatively good health, thus still able to be of service to others. As I listened, the concept of being a "servant leader" came front and center. His life has been about that very concept! He has mentored so many and continues to do so. As we finished our conversation, he noted he was off to another commitment, another organizing effort! Well, didn't I mention earlier it does not appear he will be slowing down anytime soon!



The 1961 Most Holy Trinity baseball team. Vic Venegas is standing at the far right (facing the viewer).

Ozzie Rivera, a retired social worker, is a cultural activist and musician who currently teaches on Afro Latino History and Culture at Wayne State University and social work at the University of Michigan.

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Detroit’s Next Mayor Can Do These 3 Things to Support Neighborhoods Beyond Downtown

by Deyanira Nevárez Martínez
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Detroit stands at a pivotal moment. Mayor Mike Duggan is preparing to leave office after 11 years at the end of 2025. The city’s next leader will inherit not only a revitalizing downtown but also neighborhoods like Belmont, Petosky-Otsego and Van Steuban that are grappling with housing instability and decades of neglect and disinvestment.

My research on housing insecurity, homelessness and urban governance, along with broader scholarship on equitable development, suggests that Detroit’s future depends on more than marquee developments like the Michigan Central Station Development. It depends on strengthening neighborhoods from the ground up.

Here are three strategies that could help Detroit’s next mayor build a just and resilient city by focusing on transitional neighborhoods:

Stabilize housing and prevent displacement

Stable housing is the foundation of thriving communities. Yet, housing instability in Detroit is both widespread and deeply entrenched. Before the pandemic, roughly 13% of Detroiters, or about 88,000 people, had been evicted or forced to move within the previous year. Families with children faced the highest risk. Many Detroiters had little choice but to remain in deteriorating housing, crowd into shared living arrangements or relocate elsewhere because of an estimated shortfall of 24,000 habitable housing units.

While building more housing is essential, preventing displacement requires more than new construction. It also demands policies that preserve affordability and protect tenants. Researchers have found that household stabilization policies, such as legal representation in eviction court, rent control and property tax relief, have the most immediate impact.

In Detroit, addressing the wave of expiring Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, or LIHTC, units remains an urgent priority. When units reach the end of their compliance period in this federal program, typically 15 years, owners are no longer required to maintain affordable rents and can raise prices. This “conversion to market rate”

often results in the loss of affordable housing for low-income residents. In response to a projected loss of 10,000 units by 2023, Detroit launched the Preservation Partnership that secured affordability commitments for about 4,000 units. However, it remains difficult to determine exactly how many of the at-risk units were ultimately lost, and when, due to reporting lags, inconsistencies and overlapping affordability programs.

Despite the city’s efforts, a 2023 analysis found that a substantial affordability gap persists, with many households unable to comfortably afford market-rate housing without spending more than 30% of their income, which is the standard set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for affordability.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority continues to support affordable housing through tax credit allocations. However, a growing number of LIHTC properties in areas experiencing redevelopment are reaching the end of their affordability periods, putting them at risk of converting to market rate. National estimates suggest that nearly 350,000 units could lose affordability by 2030 and over 1 million by 2040 without sustained local and regional preservation efforts.

Stabilizing Detroit’s housing market means ensuring that those who stayed during the hardest times are not pushed out as reinvestment takes hold. To achieve this, the next mayor could expand rental assistance and support tenant organizing efforts. This is particularly needed in transitional neighborhoods

where renters come together to fight unfair evictions, improve housing conditions and push for more stable rents.

Reclaim and reimagine vacant land for community benefit

Many view Detroit’s vast tracks of vacant land, estimated in the hundreds of thousands of parcels, as blight. But they could also be seen as a public asset and a generational opportunity if brought together with the right public strategies.

Land trusts can turn empty lots into valuable neighborhood spaces. A land trust is a nonprofit that holds land for the

community and keeps housing affordable over the long term, a key to preventing displacement.



Research also shows that greening strategies can improve community health, cohesion and equity. Cities like Philadelphia and Cleveland have launched urban greening initiatives that transform vacant lots into community gardens, small parks and tree-filled spaces. Research shows that these projects can help stabilize property values and strengthen neighborhoods by reducing blight, encouraging investment and creating safer, more attractive environments.

Detroit has a land bank, a public agency that manages vacant and foreclosed properties. The city has also invested in some green infrastructure. But experts say that these efforts require stronger city leadership, teamwork across departments and real input from residents. These are areas where Detroit still has room to grow.

By collaborating with residents to cocreate a land use vision, the next mayor could prioritize community ownership and ecological restoration instead of speculative redevelopment.

Invest in social infrastructure

Neighborhood strength is about more than buildings — it’s about people.

As the Brookings Institution notes, economic opportunity is key to long-term safety, and investing in youth is a proven violence reduction strategy.

Detroit’s neighborhoods have long faced a lack of investment in schools, recreation centers and social services. This leaves families vulnerable and fuels cycles of poverty and criminalization. Under these conditions, young people, especially Black and brown youth, are more likely to be policed, punished and pushed into the criminal justice system.

A 2021 study found that the Detroit Public Schools Community District reported 2% of its students experienced homelessness, despite 16% of households with children



reporting recent eviction or forced moves. This gap reveals major service and awareness gaps. And when families fall through those gaps, it’s often children who suffer the most.

Addressing these gaps requires investing in mental health services, youth development programs and violence prevention, rather than relying solely on policing or incarceration. These approaches recognize that true public safety comes from access to stable jobs, quality education and supportive services that meet people’s health, housing and social needs. Some of the most effective strategies include restorative justice in schools and outreach to older adults and residents experiencing

homelessness. These are not luxuries. They are essential infrastructure for neighborhood vitality.

The work ahead

Detroit is often held up as a cautionary tale of urban decline, or more recently, as a comeback story driven by downtown revitalization. But in my opinion, its true test lies in what comes next: whether the city can translate momentum into equity for the communities that have long been left behind.

The next mayor has the chance to shift the narrative by centering housing justice, reclaiming land for public good and investing in the people who make Detroit a city worth fighting for.

Deyanira Nevárez Martínez is Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, Michigan State University. She is a trustee of the Lansing School District Board of Education and is currently a candidate for the Lansing City Council Ward 2.



The city is grappling with how to conduct its resurgence after decades of a flagging population that left thousands of blighted properties behind.

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All Saints Literacy Center

Con't from pg. 1

Alma Cruz, the President of the Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit and Supplier Diversity Specialist at Barton Malow, supports investing in literacy solutions to bolster the economy and advance all of our communities. She advised, “Even when you don’t want to show up, be present and show up with all of your heart. Always

build your connections and come together in community to strengthen relationships, work, and your life”. Elizabeth Nanas, Executive Director of All Saints Literacy Center closed the ceremony noting, “This honor society induction ceremony is so special because it marks a culmination of the many months and years

of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. You inspire me every day in embracing new opportunities, lifelong learning, and personal growth.” The ceremony was a memorable celebration of academic achievements and personal growth. The inductees, beaming with pride, were congratulated by family, friends,

volunteer tutors, and faculty, marking the beginning of new chapters in their lives. The All Saint’s Literacy Center’s NAEHS inductees include:

- Lucila Bustos de Gonzalez
- Leonida Figardo-Coplin
- Ana Ysabel Garcia
- Victor Newman Harvin

- Maria Miguel
- Kim Chi NGuyen
- Dilma Orozco
- Elizabeth Gregorio Pelcastre
- Maritza Pernalete
- Evita Frias Ramirez
- Argenis Eduardo Torres Quintero

Homenaje a sus estudiantes adultos

Con't de pg. 1

Alma Cruz, presidenta del Comité Patriótico Mexicano del Área Metropolitana de Detroit y especialista en Diversidad de Proveedores de Barton Malow, apoya la inversión en soluciones de alfabetización para impulsar la economía y el progreso de todas nuestras comunidades. Ella aconsejó: “Aunque no quieran asistir, estén presentes y asistan con todo su corazón.

Siempre fortalezcan sus conexiones y fortalezcan su comunidad para robustecer sus relaciones, el trabajo y la vida”. Elizabeth Nanas, Directora Ejecutiva del Centro de Alfabetización All Saints, clausuró la ceremonia diciendo: “Esta ceremonia de incorporación a la sociedad de honor es tan especial porque marca la culminación

de muchos meses y años de arduo trabajo, dedicación y perseverancia. Me inspiran cada día a aceptar nuevas oportunidades, el aprendizaje continuo y el crecimiento personal”. La ceremonia fue una celebración memorable de logros académicos y crecimiento personal. Los nuevos miembros, radiantes de orgullo, fueron felicitados

por familiares, amigos, tutores voluntarios y profesores, marcando el comienzo de una nueva etapa en sus vidas. Los miembros de NAEHS del All Saint’s Literacy Center incluyen:

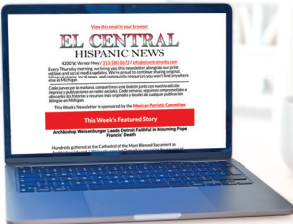
- Lucila Bustos de González
- Leonida Figardo-Coplin
- Ana Ysabel García
- Víctor Newman Harvin
- María Miguel

- Kim Chi NGuyen
- Dilma Orozco
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Since it began in 1972, the Lottery has contributed nearly \$30 billion to support public education in Michigan. For the most recent year, the Lottery’s contribution to the School Aid Fund topped \$1 billion for the sixth consecutive year. Michigan’s K-12 public school system serves about 1.4 million students. Funding provided by the Lottery is equal to more than \$890 for each student who attends a K-12 public school, or more than \$3.4 million each day for schools throughout the state. In addition to helping provide funding for public education in Michigan, the Lottery also has established the Excellence in Education program to recognize outstanding educators. Every week during the school year, the Michigan Lottery selects one outstanding educator

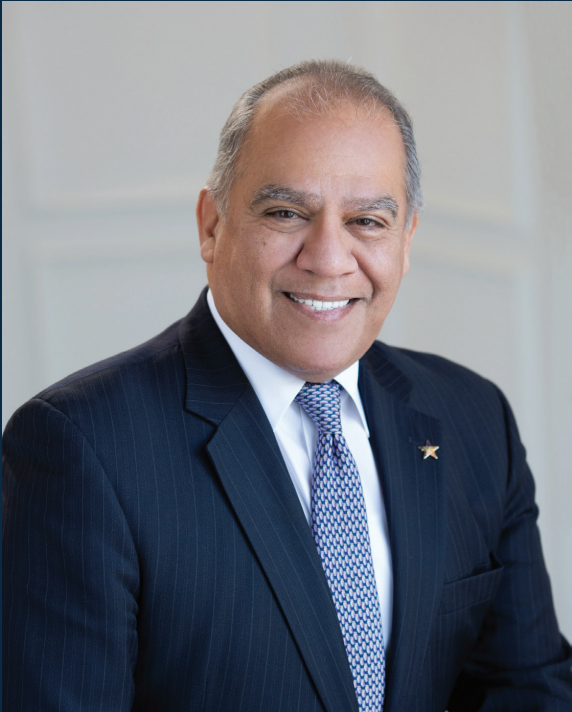


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to receive the Excellence in Education award. Each weekly award winner receives a cash prize, receives a plaque, and is featured in their own news segment featured on news stations throughout the state.

At the end of the school year, the Michigan Lottery selects one weekly winner to receive the Lottery’s Educator of the Year award and a \$10,000 cash prize. All public-school employees may be nominated for the

Excellence in Education awards. To learn more about the Excellence in Education program, please visit <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-ineducation>.



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National Police Week, May 11-17, 2025

During Officer Appreciation Week, Southwest Detroit community residents were able to express their appreciation for the officers of the 4th Precinct. Businesses in Southwest Detroit sponsored breakfast, lunch and dinner for the officers during the week. The Ambassador Bridge sponsored lunch on Friday, May 16. Vice President of the Ambassador Bridge International Company Ken Dobson expressed his gratitude to Commander Shelley Holderbaum as well as all of the officers of the 4th precinct for their service and all they do to keep our community safe.

National Police Week occurs every May, and in

2025, we will commemorate it with live, in-person events. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community.



De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne, Eric R. Sabree



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Chemical Odors in Southwest Detroit Trigger Air Quality Complaints

By Isabelle Tavares- Planet Detroit

When a petroleum smell made Ed Gies nauseous on a morning walk to Delray Park just before 8 a.m. on April 12, the 63-year-old decided to report the odor to Michigan’s environmental regulator.

Though no stranger to early morning petroleum smells from working in his garden in Southwest Detroit, this was the first time Gies, a retired manufacturing professional, said he reported an issue to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Gies and a friend walked to the park near Historic Fort Wayne to see progress on the Gordie Howe bridge construction when they turned around. The color indicator on Gies’ mobile, personal air monitor that he brought along the walk quickly turned from green — signifying good air quality — to purple, marking hazardous air.

“The petroleum smell hit me. We stopped immediately and started heading away from it,” Gies said.

He reported the nausea-inducing smell to state regulators the following afternoon. The official noted Gies’ personal information, location, date and time of day, smell description, and said the Detroit office would contact him.

Southwest Detroit odors behind EGLE complaints

The Michigan environmental regulator could not identify a source for two odor complaints it received April 13, said Josef Greenberg, spokesperson for EGLE.

One resident reported a petroleum odor around 2 1/2 miles to the east-northeast of Marathon Petroleum Corp. that morning, and the same complainant also reported the odor approximately 3 miles to

the northeast of the refinery in the early afternoon.

“While Marathon is a possible cause of this odor, the distance and wind direction allow for the possibility that another source (or sources) may have been the cause,” Greenberg said in an email. Data from a Marathon monitoring station indicated the wind was to the north-northeast during the morning and to the north in the early afternoon, he said.

A second complaint of a “sour, smoky, chemical odor” was received about 3 1/2 miles to the northeast of Marathon that morning, Greenberg said, noting the resident did not mention the refinery and that industrial facilities nearer to the complainant were mentioned as a possible cause.

Marathon’s Northeast air quality monitoring station on South Waring Street measures sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, total reduced sulfur, and particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less, Greenberg said. Although located close to Marathon, the monitors represent the accumulated contribution of all sources located in the immediate area that emit these pollutants, Greenberg said, and not necessarily the contribution from Marathon alone.

Early on the Saturday that Gies encountered a foul odor, the Marathon Petroleum Corp. air quality monitoring station recorded peak hourly concentrations of 7 parts per billion of total reduced sulfur from 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. The state’s air pollution control rules limit hydrogen sulfide concentrations to 5 ppb beyond a facility’s property line for 2 minutes.

The refinery did not experience any operational issues or releases during this time frame, Marathon spokesperson Amy Nusbaum

said in an email. “In addition, during that time, the northeast monitoring station shows the wind was coming from due north, indicating that the source of the TRS was not from the refinery, which lies to the south and west of that monitoring station,” Nusbaum said. TRS, total reduced sulphur, is composed of hydrogen sulfide and other compounds containing reduced sulfur.

Hydrogen sulfide is removed from oil during the refining process and has a rotten egg smell. At high levels, it can cause convulsions and death, while at lower concentrations, it’s linked to neurological effects and ear, eye, and nose irritation as well as quality of life issues on account of the strong smell.

Southwest dense with pollution sources

The odor complaints highlight an everyday problem in Southwest Detroit, where pollution from vehicles and industrial sources on both sides of the Detroit River takes a toll on residents’ health and quality of life.

Major sources of air pollution are scattered across the area, including Marathon, DTE Energy-owned EES Coke Battery, truck traffic servicing the Detroit Intermodal Freight Terminal, and emissions from around 10,000 trucks that cross the Ambassador Bridge daily.

A 2016 study warns these ongoing issues could pose a risk for children in Southwest Detroit, who make up a more significant portion of the population than in other areas of the city.

With still-developing bodies, younger residents are “particularly vulnerable to adverse health effects associated with exposure to air pollutants than other areas of the city,” according to the study.



Southwest Detroit resident Ed Gies holds his personal air quality monitor. He experienced a petroleum odor while on a walk to Delray Park, near Historic Fort Wayne, in April. Photo courtesy of Ed Gies.

The Marathon perimeter air quality monitors began operating in 2012, and its public air monitoring database was deployed in 2021 as part of a Supplemental Environmental Project approved by Michigan regulators, according to the company.

Greenberg said the refinery set up the monitoring to comply with its air permits.

Kristy Allen, project manager with Detroit-based air monitoring company Just Air, said an air monitor located across the street from Marathon’s Northeast station recorded two hours where air quality was unhealthy for sensitive groups on April 12.

JustAir’s monitor on Sanders Street and Greyfriars Street measures PM2.5, PM10, and NO2, Aleen said. Between 5:20 a.m. and 7:40am April 12, the monitor recorded PM2.5 measurements above 35.5 micrograms per cubic meter, she said.

Most particulate matter readings between April 12 and 13 were between zero and 9 micrograms per cubic meter, signifying “good” air quality, but about 30 to 40 readings were at moderate levels, Allen said.

The monitor is managed by Green Door Initiative and does not measure hydrogen sulfide, Allen said.

“PM2.5 and H2S behave quite differently as pollutants, so the JustAir data from this monitor may not be able to be directly linked to an H2S permit violation,” Allen said.

Residents can report an air quality concern from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday by calling EGLE at 1-800-662-9278; or by calling EGLE’s Detroit District Office at 313-456-4681 for odor concerns originating in Wayne County. Residents can also submit a complaint through EGLE’s new online Air Quality Complaint Form at <https://bit.ly/AirQualityComplaintForm>.

For after-hours concerns or emergencies, call the Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) at 1-800-292-4706.

Isabelle Tavares is a Community Reporter who covers environmental and public health impacts in Southwest Detroit for Planet Detroit with Report for America. Working in text, film and audio, she is a Dominican-American storyteller who is concerned with identity, generational time, and ecology.



A map that color coded air quality based on Ed Gies’ personal monitor he brought with him on his morning walk to Delray Park on April 12. Screenshot courtesy of Ed Gies.

Capping Off a Historic Turnaround, Detroit Now Leads Michigan in Population Growth

The U.S. Census report recently released Detroit’s population estimate at 645,705, a gain of 12,487 from last year’s U.S. Census report, Mayor Mike Duggan announced. With that gain, Detroit has now moved ahead of Portland, Oregon, as the 26th largest city in the United States. Detroit now ranks just behind Boston at 25.

Detroit’s gain of 12,487 residents was made up of two elements:

1. A record increase of 6,791 Detroiters in 2024 alone.
2. The addition of 5,696 Detroiters who the Census Bureau acknowledged had been undercounted from 2021-2023

At a gathering of city employees and community members on Thursday, May 15, Mayor Duggan thanked and gave credit to the countless people

who have worked for years for Detroit to hear news like this. “This record growth would not have been possible without the hard work of longtime Detroiters, our business community and city employees over the past 12 years,” said Mayor Duggan.

“Together, we have created a city that is full of opportunity and vibrancy for new and existing Detroiters alike. These new number also show that the hard work of ensuring every Detroiters is counted has been worth the effort,” the Mayor added.

In May 2024, the Census Bureau reported a Detroit population increase of 1,852, the first increase since 1957. The new report acknowledges a significant undercount in last year’s report.

After being a decades-long symbol of flight and population decline, Detroit has seen a

Summary of New Population Estimate Report

Detroit Population reported in May, 2024 Census estimate:	633,218
May, 2025 Census Correction for missed count 2021-2023	(5,696)
May, 2025 Corrected 2023 Detroit Population	638, 914
Detroit’s 2024 population increase:	6,791
Current Census Bureau Detroit Population Estimate	645,705

remarkable reversal:

- Detroit’s 6,791 (1.1%) population increase in 2024 led the State of Michigan’s growth
 - o Detroit’s 1.1% population increase over 2023 doubled the rate of Michigan’s statewide increase of 0.6%.
 - o Detroit’s 2024 increase of 6,791 led all Michigan cities, more than tripling the increase of Grand Rapids, the next closest city (1,847).
- Detroit’s 6,791 (1.1%) population increase in 2024 beat U.S. national growth rate
 - o The U.S. population growth rate in 2024 was 0.98%. Detroit’s growth rate of 1.1% beat the national average.

As a result of this growth, Detroit’s population has passed that of Portland, Oregon, to move Detroit up from the country’s 27th largest city to the 26th largest. Detroit now trails

Boston for the 25th spot and closed the gap between them this year.

The Mayor said that key factors in Detroit’s surging growth are strengthened neighborhoods (including renovated homes, parks and commercial corridors), reliable city services, ongoing development of major job centers, nation-leading reductions in crime

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Night of Knockouts XXXIV !!!



Sports Editor: Dan Grashuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Bob Ryder (fightnews.com)

This past Saturday, at the Motor City Casino Soundboard, held Night of Knockouts XXXIV - live professional boxing, sponsored by Carlos Llinas of CLIP promotions. A large crowd was treated to 11 professional bouts.

Photos below are highlights from 4 of the bouts during Night of Knockouts XXXIV at the Motor City Casino Soundboard



William Canales (from San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2-0, 2 KOs) defeated Shawn Moore (from Chicago, IL, debut, 0-1) by TKO in the second round (1:15) during the 168 lbs Super Middleweight bout



Lance Smith (from Detroit, MI, 3-0, 3 KOs and from Tony Harrison SuperBad Boxing Gym) defeated Colin Huntington (from Kalamazoo, MI, 3-5) by TKO in the 4th round during the co-main event. CLIP promotions promoter Carlos Llinas seen in photo with Lance Smith



Josiah Shackelford (from Detroit, MI, 6-2, 3 KOs, from Tony Harrison SuperBad Boxing Gym) defeated Matt Denning (from Lewiston, ME, 0-2) by TKO in the first round (2:33). CLIP promotions promoter Carlos Llinas is seen in the top left photo with Josiah Shackelford after the bout



Samantha Marinelli (from Detroit, MI, debut, 1-0, 1 KO, from NuWay Boxing Gym) defeated Shamiah Jones (from Kalamazoo, MI, 0-4) by TKO in the second round (0:36 seconds)

Fit To Be Tied



After a brilliant start to 2025, Detroit City has hit an early season patch of the doldrums. While Le Rouge remains unbeaten in their last five league games, the most recent three have been disappointing draws against teams in the bottom half of the Eastern Conference. The latest setback, which also included dropping points from a winning position again, came last Sunday in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Birmingham Legion have struggled for traction this year and find themselves outside the playoff spots. They don't score a lot of goals and give up quite a few. That makes

DCFC's inability to generate much offense at Protective Stadium that much more disappointing. Coach Danny Dichio reverted to his original starting pair of Ben Morris and Darrin Smith, but neither could find any joy against a massed defense.

A goalless first half petered out with only a curling shot from Devon Amoo-Mensah that went wide threatening the Birmingham goal. Dichio must have tried to rally the team at halftime. They came out positively with defender Shane Wiedt, playing in place of captain Stephen Carroll, launching a lovely long ball to Alex Villanueva. The left wing-back's first touch took him inside his defender and a clumsy-looking shot

with his weaker right foot eluded goalkeeper Matt Van Oekel to give DCFC a lead just a minute into the second half.

Le Rouge tried to hold the lead, slowing the game down at every opportunity, but eventually conceded an equalizer ten minutes from time after a corner kick. Carlos Herrera went low to make a superb save on Santiago Suarez's header, but could only poke the ball into the feet of Phaniel Kavita, who made no mistake with the rebound.

There was no final charge from City to try and reclaim all three points. The second half simply ran down until the final whistle with neither side offering much. Like the previous two draws against Indy XI and

Hartford, these will be points the team will miss later this year. Six points dropped against three of the four teams currently below the playoff line is not a good return. The club now goes into a very important game this weekend without a win since April 19.

On Saturday afternoon, the hottest team in the USL Championship will be at Keyworth Stadium. The Charleston Battery seized the top spot in the Eastern Conference with a comfortable 4-0 win over San Antonio. They will arrive in the midst of a six match winning streak, having beaten up on the lesser teams where DCFC struggled. Striker Cal Jennings will be a serious threat. He leads the

league with nine goals after bagging a brace against San Antonio. Matt Myers has an additional five goals, giving the Battery a solid secondary scoring option. Midfielder Juan Torres is second in the league with 20 chances created. The team added Guatemalan international, and former US youth international, Rubio Rubin recently, giving them excellent depth in reserve. The Battery are a high-powered team with plenty of attacking options. DCFC will have to lift its game to earn a result. This match will be DCFC's first nationally televised game of the season (Univision and channel 50 WKBD at 4:00 pm).

DCFC First Doubleheader This Saturday

(Photos and Story by Detroit City FC)

DCFC mens picked up its fifth draw of the early USL Championship season on Sunday afternoon on the road to Birmingham Legion FC in a tight 1-1 contest at Protective Stadium.

Neither side scored a goal in what was a cagey first half, with most of the action being played between the 18-yard boxes.

Detroit City FC came out of the gates in the second half hot, as defender Shane Wiedt played an excellent long ball to a wide-open Alex Villanueva on the wing. Villanueva still had a lot of work to do as he cut inside and finished it past the Birmingham keeper to score his first goal of the 2025 season.

Le Rouge would not see this lead out, however, as Birmingham Legion would equalize the match in the 81st minute through Phaniel Kavita.

Next up, Detroit City FC welcomes former head coach Ben Pirmann and current Eastern Conference leaders Charleston Battery at Keyworth Stadium on Saturday, May 24, in the first match of the day's doubleheader with kickoff set for 4 p.m.

DCFC womens kicked off its 2025 USL W League season on Saturday night, on the road to longtime foe AFC Ann Arbor at Holloway Field. Le Rouge came out of the gates hot and controlled most of the first half, but struggled to find a breakthrough.

Then, in the second half, the all-time leading goalscorer for the Detroit City FC women's side, Kayla Addison, latched onto a long ball, poked the ball past the onrushing AFC Ann Arbor goalkeeper, and calmly finished to give Le Rouge its first lead of the 2025 season.

Things would turn quickly, though, as the hosts took advantage of substitutions and scored two quickfire goals to claim all three points.

Next up, the Detroit City FC women's side hosts Union FC Macomb at Keyworth Stadium on Saturday, May 24, in the second match of the day's doubleheader with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

For tickets to the doubleheader for DCFC mens and DCFC womens game, on Saturday, May 24th, please visit: https://seatgeek.com/detroit-city-fc-tickets/usl/2025-05-24-4-pm/17355961?mc_cid=f7db24ed56&mc_cid=3e864618cb

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EL CENTRAL is a weekly publication. The deadline for articles and ads is noon, Monday prior to publication. The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Managing Editor.

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

Trump vs. the Supremes
The largest stress test yet of the U.S. Constitution

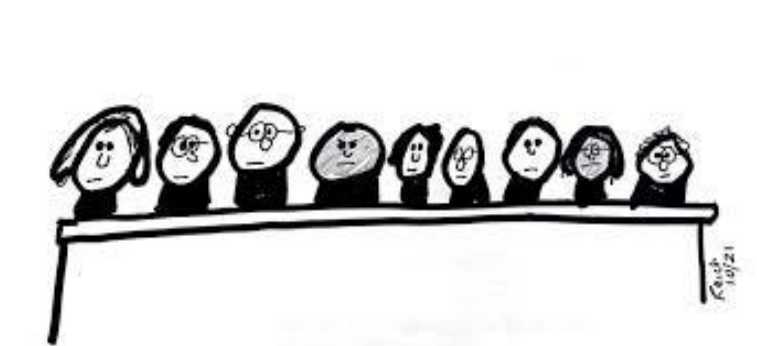
By Robert Reich



On Friday, May 16th, the Supreme Court ruled that the Trump regime cannot deport a group of Venezuelans while the matter is being litigated in the courts. The regime can’t merely allege that they’re members of a violent gang; it must give them sufficient time to challenge their deportations. And it can’t merely assume that the eighteenth-century Alien Enemies Act gives it authority. Both the facts of these cases and the law have to be hashed out in lower courts. The justices called the detainees’ interests “particularly weighty” because of the risk of removal to a notorious prison in El Salvador where the migrants could face indefinite detention. Score a big one for the rule of law. Of course, Justice Samuel Alito dissented, joined by Clarence Thomas. The two have moved so far into the dense fog of irrational rightwing legal blather that they have lost all credibility. The big news is that the three Trump appointees — Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett — joined the Chief Justice and the three

Democratic appointees to set a limit on Trump. I call this a showdown because Trump cannot abide limits. He reacted in fury to the ruling: “THE SUPREME COURT WON’T ALLOW US TO GET CRIMINALS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!” he wrote on social media, and in a subsequent post said, “The Supreme Court of the United States is not allowing me to do what I was elected to do.” And he called it “a bad and dangerous day for America.” Trump’s outrage has three unfortunate consequences. It establishes that Trump and the nation’s highest court are on a collision course on what Trump considers a central goal of his regime — what he “was elected to do.” It also increases the possibility that Trump will do what JD Vance and others in the White House have urged him to do all along — announce that he will not be bound by the Court’s rulings. This would be momentous. If enough Americans (and their constituents) are horrified by this — as we should be — it could spell the end of Trump. Openly defying a Supreme Court decision is surely enough to warrant an impeachment in the House and conviction in the Senate. The third consequence of

Trump’s rage is to expose the nine justices — and the judiciary in general — to even more harassment, including death threats. Online threats toward judge and justices are growing. Last Sunday, May 11th, Trump criticized what he called “a radicalized and incompetent Court System,” which he said was standing in the way of his mass deportation agenda. Paul Redmond Michel, a former federal appeals court judge appointed by Ronald Reagan, said the increasing threats to judges highlighted an urgent need for Trump, Attorney General Bondi and other administration officials, to make clear that they will follow court orders, regardless of the outcome, and prioritize judges’ safety. “We know from the January 6, 2021, rioters that there are people out there who are perfectly prepared to be extremely violent and damaging and threatening,” said Michel. “Judges have to feel confident enough in being protected that they can make decisions without looking over their shoulders and worrying about whether the decision, if it’s displeasing to the administration, might cause them some kind of harm.” This week, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), ranking member of the U.S. Senate



Judiciary Committee, asked Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel to investigate the increasing number of threats to federal judges, which “threaten not only judges and their families, but also judicial independence and the rule of law,” Durbin wrote. But there’s no question what’s fueling the threats — as Trump’s outburst against the Supreme Court’s ruling yesterday shows. The Trump regime is not content to merely castigate judges and justices. It is now arresting judges. On Tuesday, it indicted Judge Hannah C. Dugan of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court on charges of obstructing federal agents from arresting a suspected undocumented immigrant who was appearing in her courtroom. In fact, Dugan was simply trying to maintain the legal sanctity of that courtroom. Attorney General Pam Bondi says the regime will target judges

who oppose the president’s growing immigration crackdown: “What has happened to our judiciary is beyond me. The [judges] are deranged is all I can think of. I think some of these judges think that they are beyond and above the law. They are not, and we are sending a very strong message today ... if you are harboring a fugitive... we will come after you and we will prosecute you. We will find you.” Judges and justices cannot be “beyond and above the law” because they are the final arbiters of the law. They have also become the last firewall against a Trump dictatorship — which presumably is why the regime is now taking them on. Friday, May 16th’s decision by the Supreme Court needs to be understood in this larger context. The coming showdown between Trump and the Supreme Court will be the largest stress test yet of our constitutional system.

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Opinión de un Invitado:

Trump contra la Corte Suprema
La mayor prueba de resistencia a la Constitución de Estados Unidos hasta la fecha

Por Robert Reich

El viernes 16 de mayo, la Corte Suprema dictaminó que el régimen de Trump no puede deportar a un grupo de venezolanos mientras el asunto se litiga en los tribunales. El régimen no puede simplemente alegar que son miembros de una pandilla violenta; debe darles tiempo suficiente para impugnar sus deportaciones. Y no puede simplemente asumir que la Ley de Enemigos Extranjeros del siglo XVIII le otorga autoridad. Tanto los hechos de estos casos como la ley deben ser debatidos en tribunales inferiores. Los jueces calificaron los intereses de los detenidos como “particularmente importantes” debido al riesgo de ser deportados a una prisión de mala reputación en El Salvador, donde los migrantes podrían enfrentar una detención indefinida. Un gran punto para el Estado de derecho. Por supuesto, el juez Samuel Alito discrepó, acompañado por Clarence Thomas. Ambos se han adentrado tanto en la densa niebla de la irracional palabrería legal de la derecha que han perdido toda credibilidad. La gran noticia es que los tres designados por Trump —Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh y Amy Coney Barrett— se unieron al presidente del

Tribunal Supremo y a los tres designados demócratas para imponerle un límite. Lo llamo un enfrentamiento porque Trump no tolera límites. Reaccionó con furia al fallo: “¡LA CORTE SUPREMA NO NOS PERMITIRÁ SACAR A LOS CRIMINALES DE NUESTRO PAÍS!”, escribió en redes sociales, y en una publicación posterior añadió: “La Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos no me permite hacer lo que fui elegido para hacer”. Y lo calificó como “un día malo y peligroso para Estados Unidos”. La indignación de Trump tiene tres consecuencias desafortunadas. Establece que Trump y el máximo tribunal del país están en una trayectoria de colisión en lo que Trump considera un objetivo central de su régimen: aquello para lo que fue elegido. También aumenta la posibilidad de que Trump haga lo que J.D. Vance y otros en la Casa Blanca le han instado a hacer desde el principio: anunciar que no se someterá a las decisiones de la Corte. Esto sería trascendental. Si suficientes estadounidenses (y sus electores) se horrorizan ante esto, como debería ser, podría significar el fin de Trump. Desafiar abiertamente una decisión de la Corte Suprema

sin duda es suficiente para justificar un juicio político en la Cámara de Representantes y una condena en el Senado. La tercera consecuencia de la ira de Trump es exponer a los nueve jueces, y al poder judicial en general, a aún más acoso, incluyendo amenazas de muerte. Las amenazas en línea contra jueces y magistrados están aumentando. El domingo pasado, 11 de mayo, Trump criticó lo que llamó “un sistema judicial radicalizado e incompetente”, que, según él, obstaculizaba su agenda de deportación masiva. Paul Redmond Michel, exjuez de la corte federal de apelaciones designado por Ronald Reagan, afirmó que las crecientes amenazas a los jueces resaltaban la urgente necesidad de que Trump, la Fiscal General Bondi y otros funcionarios de la administración dejen claro que acatarán las órdenes judiciales, independientemente del resultado, y prioricen la seguridad de los jueces. “Sabemos, por los alborotadores del 6 de enero de 2021, que hay personas perfectamente preparadas para ser extremadamente violentas, dañinas y amenazantes”, declaró Michel. “Los jueces deben sentirse lo suficientemente seguros de estar protegidos

como para poder tomar decisiones sin tener que preocuparse por si la decisión, si no le agrada a la administración, podría causarles algún tipo de daño”. Esta semana, el senador estadounidense Dick Durbin (demócrata por Illinois), miembro de mayor rango del Comité Judicial del Senado, solicitó a Bondi y al director del FBI, Kash Patel, que investigaran el creciente número de amenazas a los jueces federales, que “amenazan no solo a los jueces y sus familias, sino también a la independencia judicial y al estado de derecho”, escribió Durbin. Pero no cabe duda de qué alimenta las amenazas, como demuestra el arrebato de Trump contra el fallo de la Corte Suprema de ayer. El régimen de Trump no se conforma con castigar a jueces y magistrados. Ahora está arrestando a jueces. El martes, acusó formalmente a la jueza Hannah C. Dugan, del Tribunal de Circuito del Condado de Milwaukee, de obstruir a agentes federales para que no arrestaran a un presunto inmigrante indocumentado que comparecía ante su tribunal. De hecho, Dugan simplemente intentaba mantener la inviolabilidad legal de dicho

tribunal. La fiscal general Pam Bondi afirma que el régimen atacará a los jueces que se opongan a la creciente represión migratoria del presidente: “Lo que le ha sucedido a nuestro poder judicial me supera. Lo único que puedo imaginar es que [los jueces] están trastornados. Creo que algunos de estos jueces creen que están por encima de la ley. No es así, y hoy enviamos un mensaje muy contundente: si están albergando a un fugitivo, los perseguiremos y los procesaremos. Los encontraremos”. Los jueces y magistrados no pueden estar “al margen de la ley” porque son los árbitros finales de la ley. También se han convertido en el último muro de contención contra la dictadura de Trump, razón por la cual, presumiblemente, el régimen ahora los está combatiendo. La decisión de la Corte Suprema del viernes 16 de mayo debe entenderse en este contexto más amplio. El próximo enfrentamiento entre Trump y la Corte Suprema será la mayor prueba de resistencia hasta la fecha para nuestro sistema constitucional.

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WORLD'S SPECIAL

CULTURES

Uruguay

Uruguay

The Eastern Republic of Uruguay, hence its inhabitants are also known as “orientales.” Uruguay is a small country compared to the two giants that surround it, bordering Brazil to the north, Argentina to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. Its border with Argentina is the Uruguay River, which, when joined by the Paraná River, becomes the great channel of the Río de la Plata.



It has approximately 3.5 million inhabitants, 1.3 million of whom live in the capital, Montevideo, the setting for The Truce and The Coffee Eraser, two novels by the famous Uruguayan poet and writer Mario Benedetti.

Punta del este

Uruguay is home to Punta del Este, one of the most exclusive coastal cities in South America. Punta del Este is home to the iconic sculpture of a hand emerging from the beach: The Emerging Man or The Fingers. This sculpture has become the defining symbol of any visit to Uruguay, and a photo with the sculpture on the shore of Playa Brava by Chilean artist Mario Irazábal, created in 1981, is a must-see. The sculpture has taken on various symbolisms over the decades, as it has been interpreted as hands protecting from the dangers of the Atlantic. The natural landscapes surrounding the peninsula have made it a unique place in the world for an unparalleled vacation, as have the incredible sunsets on Playa Mansa. However, any spot is perfect for watching the sun set over the sea, either from the shore (with a coat because it gets cool at that time), or from a bar or beach bar. You can also say goodbye to the sun from the port and Gorriti Island. Other unique walks include Punta Ballena, Casa Pueblo, and Laguna del Sauce. Their beaches are divided into Mansa (on the river side) and Brava (on the ocean side). The name given to these beaches is due to the fact that the former, Playa Mansa, faces the Río de la Plata and is protected from the winds and currents from the



Atlantic Ocean, and almost always has fairly calm waters, while Playa Brava, being oceanic, has much rougher waves. Punta del Este is practically connected to the city of Maldonado and extends widely, encompassing La Barra and José Ignacio. Punta del Este is just two hours from Montevideo. The route takes you through the streets of Pueblo Viejo, which is an excellent place to enjoy a good Uruguayan barbecue. Recommended places to eat are those with terraces on the Playa Mansa promenade overlooking the ocean, the port, and Gorriti Island. After a day at the beach, you can relax in the spots to admire the sunset. Punta del Este offers recreational activities such as surfing, windsurfing, jet-skiing, power boating, sailing, fishing, and yachting. On land, there are prime locations for other sports such as polo, golf, tennis, and rugby. The Punta del Este International Film Festival is one of the most important in the country and one of the most important in Latin America. This event takes place during the month of February. Another popular destination is Tambo Lapataia in Maldonado, offering many family-friendly activities that may appeal to children, such as milking cows and feeding goats, as well as games, walks, horseback riding, and more.

Roberto Ayón Ballesteros

Recipe: Pizza a caballo



Pizza a caballo is one of Uruguay's most traditional dishes. Its unique feature is the French fries and a fried egg on top. Here's one of the simplest recipes.

- Ingredients:**
- ½ pound flour
 - 1 tablespoon yeast
 - Salt to taste
 - Oil
 - 1 white onion
 - 250 ml tomato puree or sauce
 - 1 teaspoon sugar
 - ½ pound mozzarella cheese
 - ½ pound bacon or pork belly
 - 4 eggs
 - 1 pound French fries
 - Oregano or pepper for sprinkling

Preparation:

To make the crust, make a dough with wheat flour, yeast, and salt. Mix the dry ingredients and make a small well in the center to add 2 tablespoons of oil and warm water. Once the dough no longer sticks to your fingers, let it rest for 20 minutes. To make the sauce, finely chop the onion and sauté it in a pan without letting it burn. Then add the tomato puree or sauce, 1 teaspoon of sugar, and salt to taste. Separately, fry the bacon, fry the French fries, and fry the eggs. When the dough has doubled in size, make the pizza crust by rolling it out in a circle like a tortilla. Then, place a layer of sauce on top, followed by the mozzarella cheese. Bake at 480°F for 10 minutes. Remove the pizza and top it with the bacon, then the French fries, and then the fried eggs. Sprinkle with oregano or pepper and it's ready to serve.

Poetry: Ida Vitale

Exiles

They are here and there: passing through,
nowhere.
Every horizon: where a burning ember beckons.
They could go toward any fissure.
There is no compass or voices.
They cross deserts scorched by the fierce sun
or by the frost
and endless fields without the limit
that makes them real,
that would make them solid and grassy.
The gaze lies down like a dog,
without even the recourse to wag a tail.
The gaze lies down or retreats,
it is pulverized in the air
if no one returns it.
It does not return to the blood nor does it reach
whom it should.
It dissolves, alone.

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Hispanic News

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,

by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL

CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Uruguay

Uruguay

La República Oriental de Uruguay, de ahí que a sus habitantes se les conozca también como orientales. Uruguay es un país pequeño en comparación a los dos gigantes que le rodean, pues al Norte colinda con Brasil, al este con Argentina y al sur con el Océano Atlántico. Su frontera con Argentina es a través del río Uruguay que al unirse con el río Paraná se convierte en el gran cauce del río de la Plata. Tiene aproximadamente 3.5 millones de habitantes, de los cuales 1.3 viven en la capital, Montevideo, escenario de La tregua y La borra de café, dos de las novelas del famoso poeta y escritor uruguayo Mario Benedetti.



Punta del este

En Uruguay se encuentra Punta del este, una de las ciudades costa más exclusivas de Suramérica.

En Punta del este se encuentra la icónica escultura de la mano surgiendo de la playa: *El hombre emergiendo* o *Los dedos*. Esta escultura se ha vuelto la mayor expresión de las visitas a Uruguay, siendo una imperdible la foto con la escultura a la orilla de la Playa Brava del chileno Mario Irrazábal realizada en 1981. La escultura ha tomado varios simbolismos con el paso de las décadas, pues ha sido interpretada como las manos que resguardan de los peligros del Atlántico.

Los paisajes naturales que rodean la península, lo han convertido en un lugar único en el mundo para unas vacaciones sin igual, así como los increíbles atardeceres en la Playa Mansa, sin embargo, cualquier punto es perfecto para ver la bajada del sol sobre el mar, ya desde la orilla, con algún abrigo porque a esa hora refresca, o desde algún bar o Parador. También se puede despedir al astro rey desde el puerto y la Isla Gorriti.

Otros paseos únicos son Punta Ballena, Casa Pueblo y Laguna del sauce. Sus playas se dividen en Mansa (del lado del río) y Brava (del lado del océano). El nombre dado a estas playas se debe a que la primera, la playa Mansa, al dar al



Río de la Plata y estar protegida de los vientos y corrientes procedentes del Océano Atlántico, presenta casi siempre sus aguas bastante calmas, mientras que la playa Brava, al ser oceánica, posee un oleaje bastante más impetuoso. Punta del Este está prácticamente unida a la ciudad de Maldonado y se extiende ampliamente, abarcando La Barra y José Ignacio.

Punta del este se encuentra a tan sólo dos horas de Montevideo. El camino permite conocer las calles de Pueblo Viejo, que es un excelente lugar para disfrutar de una buena parrillada a la uruguaya.

Lugares recomendados para comer son aquellos con terrazas sobre la Rambla de la Playa mansa con vista al mar, el puerto y la Isla Gorriti y después de un día de playa, descansar en los lugares para admirar la puesta del sol.

Punta dle este permite llevar a cabo actividades recreativas como el surf, windsurf, jet-ski, motonáutica, vela, pesca y yachting. En tierra firme, se cuenta con escenarios privilegiados para la práctica de otros deportes como el polo, el golf, el tenis o el rugby.

El festival Internacional de Cine de Punta del Este, es uno de los más importantes del país y uno de los principales de la región latinoamericana. Este evento, se lleva a cabo durante el mes de febrero.

Otro de los lugares populares es Tambo Lapataia en Maldonado, muchas actividades para visitar en familia que pueden atraer a los niños como ordeñar vacas y darles de comer a cabritas, así como juegos, paseos, cabalgatas y más.

Roberto Ayón Ballesteros

Receta: Pizza a caballo



La Pizza a caballo es uno de los platillos más tradicionales de Uruguay. Su particularidad es llevar en la parte de arriba papas fritas y un huevo frito. Aquí te pasamos una de las recetas más sencillas.

Ingredientes:

- ½ libra de harina
- 1 cucharada de levadura
- Sal al gusto
- Aceite
- 1 cebolla blanca
- 250 ml de puré o salsa de tomate
- 1 cucharadita de azúcar
- ½ libra de queso mozzarella
- ½ libra de Tocino o Panceta de cerdo
- 4 huevos
- 1 libra de papas a la francesa
- Orégano o pimienta para espolvorear al final

Preparación:

Para elaborar la base, es necesario hacer una masa con el harina de trigo, levadura y sal. Se mezclan los ingredientes secos y al centro se hace un pequeño pocito para agregar 2 cucharadas de aceite y el agua tibia. Una vez que la masa ya no se pega en los dedos, se deja reposar por 20 minutos.

Para hacer la salsa, picar la cebolla finita y sofreír en el sartén sin dejar que se queme, luego agregar el puré o salsa de tomate, 1 cucharadita de azúcar y sal al gusto.

Aparte, es necesario freír Panceta, freír las papas a la francesa y freír los huevos.

Cuando la masa ha duplicado su tamaño procedemos a realizar la base para la pizza extendiendo la masa en un círculo como si fuera tortilla, luego se le pone una cama de salsa, sobre de ésta el queso mozzarella. Se mete al horno a 480ºf durante 10 minutos.

Se saca la pizza y encima se le pone primero la Panceta, luego las papas fritas y encima los huevos fritos. Se espolvorea con orégano o pimienta y lista para servirse.

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Poesía: Ida Vitale

Exilios

Están aquí y allá: de paso,
en ningún lado.
Cada horizonte: donde un ascua atrae.
Podrían ir hacia cualquier fisura.
No hay brújula ni voces.
Cruzan desiertos que el bravo sol
o que la helada queman
y campos infinitos sin el límite
que los vuelve reales,
que los haría de solidez y pasto.
La mirada se acuesta como un perro,
sin siquiera el recurso de mover una cola.
La mirada se acuesta o retrocede,
se pulveriza por el aire
si nadie la devuelve.
No regresa a la sangre ni alcanza
a quien debiera.
Se disuelve, tan solo.



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